

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03246 291048Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PASS-00 INT-05 /024 W
-----300052Z 047871 /15

R 290632Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7329

UNCLAS ANKARA 3246

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, TU
SUBJECT: SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORIES PROGRAM

TO: HAL BUTLER, US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ASC
KIRTLAND AFB
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

REF: YOUR CABLE 26 APRIL, 1977

1. MAST VISITED REMOTE SITE AND GEOLOGY BUILDING AT METU ON APRIL 28 WITH YASAR AND CHECKED PROGRESS AGAINST BATSON CHECK LIST AND YASAR REPORT (ANKARA 2508). REMOTE SITE IS COMPLETED (FIBER GLASS VAULT INSTALLED, SECURITY FENCE UP, ELECTRIC POWER AND SWITCHBOX ARE CONNECTED, ETC.). ACTUAL INSTALLATION OF WINCH (ANCHORS ARE IN) AND AIR CONDITIONING NOT YET COMPLETED. (YASAR WANTED TO GET FENCE UP FIRST).

2. ROOM IN GEOLOGY BUILDING IS COMPLETED (PAINTED; POWER, ELECTRIC SWITCHBOARD, ELECTRIC OUTLETS IN PLACE, ETC.). BATTERY ROOM IS ALSO READY AND PIPING AND WIRES LAID CONNECTING BATTERY ROOM TO CONTROL ROOM. TELEPHONE IS NOT PHYSICALLY IN PLACE, BUT WIRES ARE IN AND YASAR SAYS THIS IS NO PROBLEM.

3. BATTERIES ARE STILL IN CUSTOMS AND WE CAN GET NO GUARANTEE FROM METU OR CUSTOMS WHEN THEY MIGHT BE RELEASED. EMBASSY UNCLASSIFIED

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UNAWARE OF COST OF REPLACEMENT AND AIR FREIGHT FOR SHIPPING BATTERIES, BUT SEES THIS AS POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. BATTERIES SHOULD NOT BE SHIPPED TO EMBASSY, HOWEVER, BUT TO METU. YOU WILL RECALL THAT YASAR WAS ABLE TO RETURN CONTROL BOARD, BUT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY HERE. SIZE AND WEIGHT OF BATTERIES MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR EMBASSY TO RECEIVE AIR SHIPMENT, TRANSFER TO METU AND THEN SHIP BATTERIES

PRESENTLY IN CUSTOMS BACK TO USGS. THERE IS NO WAY EMBASSY CAN LEGALLY MAKE THIS TRANSFER.

4. SECURITY SITUATION AT METU PRESENTLY UNCERTAIN. CAMPUS IS CONTROLLED BY GENDARMERIE AND NO STUDENTS ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER. THERE ARE REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT RIGHT-WING COMMANDOS ARE OPERATING ON CAMPUS TO ENFORCE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION DECISIONS. THERE WERE MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSIONS ON CAMPUS THREE WEEKS AGO AND CARS OF METU LABOR LEADER AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WERE BLOWN UP. MOREOVER, ELECTION CAMPAIGN HERE IS HEATING UP AND THERE HAVE BEEN SOME BOMBINGS IN ANKARA AND VIOLENCE, INCLUDING SHOOTINGS, AT POLITICAL RALLIES IN COUNTRYSIDE. FACT THAT UNITECH TECHNICIANS WOULD NEED TO BE AT METU FOR SIX WEEKS MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSESS SECURITY SITUATION IN ELECTION PERIOD WHEN EVENTS CAN CHANGE RAPIDLY. CONSEQUENTLY, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT UNITECH TECHNICIANS NOT, REPEAT NOT COME TO ANKARA PRIOR TO JUNE 5 ELECTION DATE. DEPENDING ON RESULTS OF ELECTION AND SUMMER SITUATION, METU COULD BE RELATIVELY PEACEFUL IN SEPTEMBER OR COULD BE EVEN MORE INSECURE THAN IT IS NOW. LEAST DANGEROUS PERIOD TO INST ALL EQUIPMENT MIGHT THEREFORE BE IN JULY-AUGUST (I.E. AFTER ELECTIONS BUT BEFORE SCHOOL REOPENS). EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE UPDATED ASSESSMENT WHEN BATTERIES ARE AVAILABLE.

5. YOU MUST, OF COURSE, ULTIMATELY DECIDE WHETHER YOU WILL TRY TO HOLD YASAR HERE FOR WHAT MUST REMAIN SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN INSTALLATION DATE OR ACCEPT HIM FOR TRAINING NOW WHEN HE HAS NO OTHER WORK AT METU AND HAS PERMISSION TO LEAVE. IT IS POSSIBLE HAT HE MIGHT COME TO STATES ON HIS OWN IN ANY CASE. WHILE I AGREE THAT YASAR'S UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENCE HERE IS VALUABLE, I DO NOT THINK IT IS ESSENTIAL. IN ANY CASE, TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK, USGS MAY NEED YASAR MORE THAN HE NEEDS USGS. DURING THE THREE YEARS I HAVE FOLLOWED THIS PROJECT, I HAVE NOTICED THAT YASAR AND TURKELLI ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE AT METU WHO ARE WILLING TO REALLY WORK TO GET THE PROJECT COMPLETED. I DOUBT THAT THE PROJECT WOULD BE WHERE IT IS TODAY WITHOUT YASAR'S EFFORT. CONSEQUENTLY, ONE OF LONG-TERMS USGS AIMS SHOULD BE TO ENSURE THAT YASAR REMAIN AT METU TO SUPERVISE SRO PROJECT. I THINK YASAR IS INTERESTED IN STAYING HERE, BUT AS YOU KNOW, HE HAS AN AMERICAN WIFE AND SON AND IS A U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT SO CAN EASILY RETURN TO U.S. AT ANY TIME.

6. WHILE I REALIZE IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO REPLY BY MAY 3, YASAR HAS ASKED FOR AN ANSWER BY THIS DATE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

CHARLES A. MAST
AMERICAN EMBASSY
ANKARA, TURKEY

MACOMBER

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, CONSTRUCTION, SEISMIC PROSPECTING, GEOLOGIC SURVEYS, LABORATORIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770151-0237
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977047/aaaaaezf.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b4b92fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2842452
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORIES PROGRAM TO: HAL BUTLER, US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ASC KIRTLAND AFB
TAGS: TECH, TU, METU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b4b92fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009